Movies and serials

†2798. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that once again through the movies and serials witchcraft and occultism are being promoted;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government are going to take to curb the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):(a) to (c) Prasar Bharat has informed that all the progammes including movies and serials on Doordarshan are governed by a Boardcast Code. Doordarshan previews all serials/movies to ensure that nothing promoting witchcraft or occultism, are telecast.

Programmes of all TV Channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter-alia*, prohibits carriage of programmes which encourage superstition or blind belief as well as those contravening the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programme Code either *suo-moto* or on receipt of a specific complaint. Authorised Officers are also empowered under the Act to take action for violation of the Programme Code.

The movies meant for public exhibition are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and guidelines issued thereunder.

Telecasting of serials in TV/Radio

†2799. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various serials are being telecast in TV/Radio Channels which are helping in making

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

woman a submissive personality with no say at home by completely destroying her entity;

(b) if so, the details of the stringent steps Government are going to take to protect the entity of woman; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):(a) to (c) Programmes over AIR and Doordarshan are governed by a Programme Code which is adhered to. Further, Section 12(2) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 provides that Prasar Bharat shall, in discharge of its functions, be guided by certain objectives which *inter-alia* include informing and stimulating the national consciousness in regard to the status and problems of women and paying special attention to the upliftment of women.

Programmes of all TV Channels, transmitted or re-transmitted through Cable Network, are required to adhere to the provisions of Programme Code prescribed under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Programme Code, *inter-alia,* prohibits carriage of programmes, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and which are derogatory to women, and which are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Action for violation of provisions of Code can be taken by any authorised officer, i.e. SDM, DM, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official Gazette by the Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Section 20 of the Act to look into the violations of the Code. Cognizance of any violation of Code is taken *suo-moto* or on receipt of specific complaints by the Committee.

Representation from music industry

2800. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the music industry is demanding for deletion of Section 52(1) (J) of the Copyright Act which has reduced the sixty year old projection of original works to a mere two years;